

**REMARKS**

The Examiner maintains that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-25, drawn to data structure for exchanging billing information between a first party and a second party (1<sup>st</sup> embodiment), classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group II: Claims 26-36, drawn to method for processing billing information between a service provider and a bill processing entity (2<sup>nd</sup> embodiment), classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group III: Claims 37-47, drawn to method for processing billing information at a bill processing entity (3<sup>rd</sup> embodiment), classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group IV: Claims 48-81, drawn to a system for processing billing information, classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group V: Claims 82-87, drawn to a system for processing billing information, classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group VI: Claims 88-111, drawn to a program product, classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Group VII: Claims 112-117, drawn to a system for processing billing information, classified in class 705, subclass 40.

Without acquiescing in the identification of species set forth in the Office action, applicants elect Group III, including claims 37-47, and request the withdrawal, without prejudice or disclaimer, of remaining claims 1-36 and 48-117.


Applicants hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3878.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By



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